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SENATE BILL 5613

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State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senators Rasmussen and Spanel

Read first time 01/29/2001. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & International Trade.

1 AN ACT Relating to marketing of agricultural products; adding new  
2 sections to chapter 15.64 RCW; creating a new section; and providing  
3 expiration dates.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

6 (1) Many consumers in this state appreciate and seek out the  
7 opportunity to purchase local farm products.

8 (2) Consumers and small-scale farmers would both benefit from  
9 increased opportunities to market farm products locally. Direct  
10 marketing provides farmers with the opportunity to realize an increased  
11 share of consumers' food dollars and provides consumers with a greater  
12 opportunity to support local agriculture and understand farm  
13 operations, farm culture, and the role farms play in meeting our food  
14 needs.

15 (3) The state would greatly benefit from a focused effort to  
16 increase the economic viability and profitability of small farms  
17 through increasing their ability to market their products directly to  
18 consumers.

1 (4) Direct marketing opportunities are often not feasible for  
2 farmers to undertake because of market barriers and the difficulty of  
3 obtaining information related to marketing.

4 (5) A direct marketing assistance program for small farmers could  
5 provide the needed information, technical assistance, and barrier  
6 clearing work that is a key to increasing direct marketing of farm  
7 products.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 15.64 RCW  
9 to read as follows:

10 (1) The small farm direct marketing assistance program is created.

11 (2) The director shall employ a small farm direct marketing  
12 assistant.

13 (3) The small farm direct marketing assistance program shall assist  
14 small farms in their direct marketing efforts. In carrying out this  
15 duty the program shall:

16 (a) Assist small farms in complying with federal, state, and local  
17 rules and regulations as they apply to direct marketing of agricultural  
18 products;

19 (b) Assist in developing infrastructure to increase direct  
20 marketing opportunities for small farms;

21 (c) Provide information on direct marketing opportunities for small  
22 farms;

23 (d) Promote localized food production systems;

24 (e) Increase access to information for farmers wishing to sell farm  
25 products directly to consumers;

26 (f) Identify and help reduce market barriers facing small farms in  
27 direct marketing;

28 (g) Assist in developing and submitting proposals to grant programs  
29 to assist small farm direct marketing efforts; and

30 (h) Perform other functions that will assist small farms in  
31 directly marketing their products.

32 (4) This section expires July 1, 2007.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 15.64 RCW  
34 to read as follows:

35 (1) The director shall, by December 1, 2006, issue a report on the  
36 accomplishments of the small farm direct marketing assistance program.  
37 The report must be submitted to the committees of the senate and the

1 house of representatives that have jurisdiction over agricultural  
2 issues. The report must be made available to the public.  
3 (2) This section expires July 1, 2007.

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